



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter**

**In Favor of SB763 Baltimore City –  
Civilian Review Board and Office of Equity and Civil Rights**

**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**on March 14, 2023**

**Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the  
Committee:**

- **Senate Bill 763 repeals provisions of law establishing and providing for the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board (CRB), in the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, which investigates, simultaneously with the Baltimore City Police Internal Investigative Division, each complaint it deems appropriate and reports its findings to an administrative charging committee.**
- **The effective date of the repeal will be January 1, 2024. At that time, all work of the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board must be transferred to any other board or agency determined appropriate by the Baltimore City Council.**

- **The CRB was created by state law in 1999 as the only civilian body with oversight of the law enforcement agencies in Baltimore City. Although the CRB is currently the only entity with independent investigatory authority, the enabling legislation limits its jurisdiction to five (5) types of alleged police misconduct and requires complaints to be filed on a signed form within one year of the alleged incident.**
- **SB763 will maintain the investigative model of oversight, remove the administrative constraints and expand jurisdiction to all complaints of alleged police misconduct involving a member of the public.**
- **SB763 also provides for a transitional structure that ensures no loss of current staff or institutional knowledge and accounts for the resource and bandwidth concerns of supporting three (3) entities with overlapping functions.**
- **SB763 will ensure the preservation of independent investigatory authority, and transfer the decision-making power from the State to the Baltimore City Council. This is important because the bill reallocates the CRB's responsibilities, protects the core principles of police accountability, while simultaneously embracing the tenets of local control.**

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable report of SB763.**

**Sincerely,**



**Jill P. Carter, Esq.**